

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

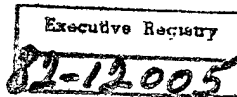
TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		✓		
2	DDCI		✓		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA		✓		
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EEO				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/OEA	✓			
16	C/PAD/OEA				
17	SA/IA				
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
20	ES		✓		
21					
22					
		SUSPENSE	16 SEPT		
			Date		

Remarks:

STAT

D/ Executive Secretary
 9/14/82
 Date

CS37 (10-81)




14 September 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of External Affairs
FROM: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: FOIA

1. Can you have someone prepare a succinct letter to use in responding to newspaper stories which distort or disagree with our position on the Freedom of Information Act. (See the attached NEW YORK TIMES story and get the CHICAGO TRIBUNE story of about a week ago.) It should deal with:

- a. The perception of public availability;
- b. The enormous cost and the leakage which occurs;
- c. The consequent loss of our ability to keep a secret;
- d. The marginal benefits and danger of misinformation arising from the fragmental and selective nature of what can usually be disclosed;
- e. The fact that accountability and oversight is fully provided for by Congressional oversight.

2. Let's try to get a satisfactory simple letter in layman's language prepared for me to clear before I leave on Friday.


William J. Casey

CL BY
RVW



25X1

SECRET

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE E-20

NEW YORK TIMES
12 SEPTEMBER 1982

Topics

Pious Deceptions

C.I.A. Disinformation

William Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, is continuing his attack on the Freedom of Information Act by posing a false choice between an open society and a secure one. "I question very seriously," he told the American Legion recently, "whether a secret intelligence agency and a Freedom of Information Act can coexist for very long." That's because the law lets anyone, including foreign intelligence agencies, "poke into our files," he says. His solution: "Get rid of the Freedom of Information Act."

The C.I.A. and the F.O.I.A. have coexisted handsomely since 1966 with immense benefits for democracy and

no demonstrated harm. That's because the act specifically exempts from disclosure Government documents that are legitimately secret. Before any outsider can poke into a file, officials pore over it to see whether all or part of it is classified. The danger is not from over-exposure but over-classification.

The still undocumented threat to national security is said to be the reluctance of foreign intelligence services to share their secrets, and the fear of some individuals to risk lives and reputations to help the C.I.A. Instead of nourishing paranoia, Mr. Casey could ease those concerns by explaining to everyone how freedom of information really works.